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Cuba

Election Results for Council of State Announced

FL1603032693 Havana Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Election results for Council of State members announced by National Electoral Commission President Carlos Amat at the National Assembly of the People's Government session at the Havana Convention Center—live]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Amat] In compliance with Article 144 of the Electoral Law, the voting and counting of the votes took place to elect the president, the first vice president, the five vice presidents, the secretary, and the 23 other members of the Council of State.

Of the 578 deputies present, 578 voted for 100 percent. Of the ballots cast at the polling box, 578 were valid for 100 percent. Therefore, there were no blank or null ballots. Of the votes for president, Deputy Fidel Castro Ruz obtained 578 votes for 100 percent. [lengthy applause]

Of the votes for first vice president, Deputy Raul Castro Ruz obtained 578 for 100 percent. [lengthy applause]

Of the votes for vice president, the results obtained by each nominee are as follows:
Juan Almeida Bosque—577 votes for 99.82 percent. [applause]
Deputy Abelardo Colome Ibarra—576 votes for 99.65 percent. [applause]
Deputy Carlos Lage Davila—578 votes for 100 percent. [applause]
Deputy Esteban Lazo Hernandez—574 votes for 99.30 percent. [applause]
Deputy Jose Ramon Machado Ventura—566 votes for 97.92 percent. [applause]
Of the votes for secretary, Deputy Jose M. Millar Barrueco obtained 576 votes for 99.65 percent. [applause]

Of the votes for members of the Council of State, the votes obtained by each nominee are as follows:
Luis G. Abreu Mejias—575 votes for 99.48 percent.
Hipolito Abril Santos—575 votes for 99.48 percent.
Enid Alen Prieto—574 votes for 99.30 percent.
Jose Ramon Balaguer Cabrera—573 votes for 99.13 percent.
Sixto Batista Santana—561 votes for 97.05 percent.
Concepcion Campa Huergo—576 votes for 99.65 percent.
Senem Casas Regueiro—566 votes for 97.92 percent.
Osmani Cienfuegos Gorriaran—575 votes for 99.48 percent.
Carlos Dotres Martinez—574 votes for 99.30 percent.
Juan Escalona Reguera—560 votes for 96.88 percent.
Vilma Espin Guillois—573 votes for 99.13 percent.
Armando Hart Davalos—567 votes for 98.09 percent.
Orlando Lugo Fonte—566 votes for 97.92 percent.
Pedro Miret Prieto—568 votes for 98.26 percent.
Eslinda Orozco Moreno—575 votes for 99.48 percent.
Felipe Perez Roque—573 votes for 99.13 percent.
Marcos Portal Leon—575 votes for 99.48 percent.
Abel Prieto Jimenez—575 votes for 99.48 percent.
Roberto Robaina Gonzalez—571 votes for 98.78 percent.
Ulises Rosales del Toro—576 votes for 99.65 percent.
Pedro Ross Leal—569 votes for 98.44 percent.
Rosa Helena Simeon Negrin—571 votes for 98.78 percent.
Nelson Torres Perez—576 votes for 99.65 percent.

As you can see, all the candidates obtained over 50 percent of the valid votes required by the law, therefore each and every one of them was elected to the aforementioned posts. [applause] [passage omitted]

China Supports Statements to UN Human Rights Commission

FL1503215693 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2056 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Today, China expressed its admiration and support for Cuba's efforts to ensure that objectivity, impartiality, and fairness prevail in work done by the UN Commission on Human Rights. The statement was made to PRENSA LATINA by a spokesperson from the Chinese Foreign Ministry, who reaffirmed the determination of Beijing to conduct joint efforts with Cuba and whoever supports these principles.

During the 49th period of sessions of the UN Commission on Human Rights held in Geneva, Cuba denounced U.S. pressures to impose the approval of resolutions, which it called arbitrary and selective, in the meeting. China also successfully confronted the efforts of the U.S. delegation to approve a resolution regarding [word indistinct] human rights violations in the PRC.

Press Day Honors International Combatants, Journalists

FL1503190693 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] At the main ceremony for National Press Day, Politburo member Jose Ramon Balaguer stressed the importance of the press in disseminating Fidel's thoughts, Marti's ideology, and the foundations of an understanding of the Cuban Revolution's democratic concepts during the elections process, which culminated in the victory of 24 February in the midst of an anti-Cuban disinformation campaign.

He added that in the front-line trench and the most important actions of the elections, the journalists were present to convey the arguments and reasoning about the electoral system. Balaguer also stressed that the work of the war (?correspondents) demanded love for the profession, a sense of duty, human values, and above all, political knowledge in order to bring reports about what happened in the battles to the people.

During the event at the Universal Auditorium of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, a solemn ceremony was held to award medals to internationalist combatants and

for the Cuban-Angolan victory. Certificates of recognition were also awarded to war correspondents for their work. Julio Garcia Luis, the president of the Union of Cuban Journalists, announced the sector's sixth congress, which is planned for this year. Those present included Luis Suarez, the secretary general of the Latin American Federation of Journalists, and officials of the press organs, the Communist Party of Cuba, and the government.

Minister of Sugar Industry on Storm Damages

FL1503220693 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Interview with Juan Herrera Machado, a Central Committee member, by unidentified reporter on the "National Radio Newscast" in Havana—live]

[Text] [Reporter] We are broadcasting live on Rebelde directly from the constituent session of the National Assembly of the People's Government. Because this will be of interest to listeners throughout the country, of course, here with me on this special edition of the "National Radio Newscast," is Juan Herrera Machado, a Central Committee member and the minister of the sugar industry. Good afternoon, Minister.

[Herrera] Good afternoon.

[Reporter] Can you give us a brief overview, Minister, of what the damages caused by the weather phenomena which have affected especially the western region of our country in the last few days mean for the sugarcane industry and agriculture?

[Herrera] We have seen in the last few days that the sugar harvest is being carried out under very difficult conditions, perhaps the worst during the special period. We have been carrying out the sugar harvest with less than 20 percent of the resources with which we normally had done it. Right now we are in a phase of stabilization in some provinces as far as fuel, which is what has caused the most problems.

However, over the weekend, as all our people know, a phenomenon occurred which in my opinion, according to the information I have seen, may be unique in the country's history. It was a cold front, but with almost hurricane winds, and it moved in a different way than a hurricane usually does; that is, in this case it moved from west to east. It reached from Pinar del Rio Province to Camaguey Province. This has naturally caused problems for the sugar industry. There have also been serious damages to noncane agriculture.

We can say that the workers at all enterprises and complexes have made great efforts to restart the machinery at the sugar mills. We can say that today, this morning, we had more than 80 mills in operation, and only half an hour ago we had more than 120 mills in operation. So we are recovering very quickly from these damages, this weather phenomenon, in all the provinces. In the eastern provinces, there was not a lot of wind, but there was rain. I think that in a few hours we will have all the mills in the country back in operation.

Tourism Construction Cost To Exceed 160 Million Pesos

FL1503185093 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] More than 160 million pesos will be invested by the Ministry of Construction this year in building tourism facilities. First Vice Minister of Construction Ramon Rodriguez added that the investments will be made in projects representing a total capacity of more than 1,700 rooms, many of which will be completed by the end of the first quarter of this year. The buildings to be completed by that date include the (Shat-Miramar) Hotel and Las Terrazas de Cojimar in Havana, Villa Cuba 1 in Varadero, the expansion of the Ancon Hotel in Sancti Spiritus, and the Rio de Luna Hotel in Holguin.

Roundup of Economic Activity Reported 9 - 14 Mar

FL1603132693

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of fileworthy reports on economic developments in Cuba carried on Havana radio and television in Spanish between 9 March and 14 March.

Radio Rebelde at 1800 GMT on 9 March reports that Minister of the Sugar Industry Juan Herrera has characterized the next 65 days as crucial to the harvest, noting that a search for every possible solution to the problem of delays is essential to achieving acceptable production levels.

Radio Reloj at 2030 GMT on 9 March reports that the enterprise (Comintur) has increased its sales in hard currency. The enterprise grew by 22 percent in 1992 in comparison with 1991, bringing in $57 million. During the annual assessment meeting of (Comintur), which manages the chain of National Institute of Tourism stores, it was also reported that 69 stores and sales sites were opened throughout Cuba during that same period.

Rebelde adds that there has been "a significant increase in production" of medicines in the last few months at the provincial medicine laboratory in Sancti Spiritus, Sancti Spiritus Province. This laboratory, which began by making only some 20 different medicines, is now making 102 kinds of medicines with prospects for making still more varieties as well as increasing production. The laboratory makes high-quality medicines much in demand by the population, such as medication to fight colds and parasites, anti- inflammatory medicines, and tonics, as well as creams, syrups, and ointments for various uses.

Radio Rebelde at 0000 GMT on 10 March reports that the Austrian Help for Latin America nongovermental organization made a donation to the Profundo Benjamin Moreno Retarded Children's Home. The Austrian

Ambassador to Cuba presented a check for $1,000 to Raul Taladrid, vice president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation.

Cuba Vision at 0100 GMT on 10 March reports that at the close of the last 10-day period of the sugar harvest, Guantanamo Province was in second place nationally in complying with the harvest grinding goal. Guantanamo had nonetheless reached only 76 percent of the grinding goal. This figure is below what is needed. The rains, interruptions in operations, and the poor condition of the tires on the harvesting equipment have been factors in this performance. Tires now arriving in Guantanamo should help improve performance.

Radio Reloj at 0300 GMT on 10 March announces that workers at the Commander Rene Ramos Latour Nickel Plant increased the nickel-plus- cobalt production yield in the past two months. To achieve this, technological improvements were introduced at the plant in Mayari Municipality. A plant official says that 70 percent of the shortage of additives and spare parts is being solved, thanks to efforts by members of the National Association of Innovators and Efficiency Experts.

Radio Reloj at 2030 GMT on 10 March reports that the potato harvest in Havana Province requires a highly productive work force because, despite the fact that the weather in December and January affected the crops, good yields are expected. Havana Province workers are preparing to harvest 2.5 million quintals of potatoes in the months of March and April.

Radio Rebelde at 1800 GMT on 11 March reports that an acclimated variety of wheat has been developed. Alberto Martinez, the director of Havana's Agricultural Research Station, stresses its importance in reducing imports, and adds that it yields from 300 to 400 quintals per caballeria. He says that this is the first time a hectare of this wheat has been successfully planted and harvested, and that they are working to increase the seed stock in order to plant 20 caballerias in Guira de Melena Municipality, to become the first municipality self-sufficient in this expensive import.

Cuba Vision at 2320 GMT on 11 March reports that 804 caballerias of tubers and vegetables had been planted in Granma Province by the end of February, 20 caballerias more than originally planned. Granma Province miscellaneous crops enterprises expect to harvest 1.9 million quintals of tubers and vegetables in 1993, half a million more than harvested in 1992.

Cuba Vision also reports that the cold season tuber and vegetable planting is finished in Ciego de Avila Province, and that a total of 989 caballerias were planted, 60 more than originally planned. In 1992, Ciego de Avila farmers provided the nation with 1,335,900 quintals of agricultural products—mainly citrus fruits, tubers, fruits, and vegetables—with most of these products going to the cities of Havana and Santiago de Cuba.

Radio Reloj at 1500 GMT on 12 March reports that the Havana Anniversary of the Triumph of the Revolution tobacco contingent has harvested over 362,000 racks (cujes) of tobacco, 45 percent of the current harvest goal. The rate of tobacco production, however, is up 35 percent, thereby offsetting the work force deficit.

Radio Reloj at 2059 GMT on 12 March reports that in the last few years, more than 245 million pesos have been invested in Santiago de Cuba Province, mainly on water management systems improvements. As part of the project, 150 caballerias of plantains have received microjet irrigation systems.

Radio Reloj at 2030 GMT on 14 March reports that in Ciego de Avila Province over 1 million banana plants were destroyed by wind; serious damage was done to the tobacco and tomato crops. Workers are attempting to harvest whatever produce can be consumed. Reloj also reports that the installation of special containers in the Contramaestre Municipality, Santiago de Cuba Province, honey plant has quadrupled plant processing capacity from 32 tons to 146 tons.

Costa Rica

Nicaraguan Negotiators Arrive for Talks

PA1603050293 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0315 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Report by Gerardo Cruz from the Juan Santamaria Airport in San Jose—live]

[Text] At this time, the Nicaraguan Government officials who have been tasked with finding a solution to the Nicaraguan Embassy occupation here in California Neighborhood, San Jose have arrived. The two officials, Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta and Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Pallais, said they are willing to begin negotiations, as long as the Costa Rican Government participates. The have asked for this participation in addition to the security the Costa Rican Government should provide these two officials when they enter the Nicaraguan Embassy. The security should be provided by Red Cross officials, Catholic Church representatives, and public security agents.

It was announced that Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo will travel to San Jose by land, arriving on the afternoon of 16 March. He will be the main negotiator between Jose Manuel Urbina Lara, the kidnapper, and the Nicaraguan Government. In addition, the Nicaraguan officials indicated that Venezuela has offered to grant political asylum to the four kidnappers, which is one of the main objectives of the negotiation.

Mendieta stated that their foremost objective is to secure the safety of the Nicaraguans at the embassy, to free them from the grasp of their captors, and to allow the kidnappers to leave the country. The negotiators said they will meet with the Nicaraguan Government officials who have been in San Jose for the last few days studying the type of communication to set up between the government and the kidnappers. Luis Fishman, Costa Rican public security minister, said he will meet with Deputy Foreign Minister Pallais and Government Minister Mendieta at his office at 1200 [1800 GMT] on 16 March to define the type of negotiations that will take place with the kidnapper.

El Salvador

Cristiani Holds News Conference

PA1503184393 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1622 GMT 15 Mar 93

[News conference by President Alfredo Cristiani with local and foreign reporters and unidentified moderator at the Presidential House in San Salvador—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Cristiani] ...our gratitude to General Ponce for the role [words indistinct] the agreements regarding the Salvadoran Armed Forces. If anyone has great merit in that regard it is Gen. Ponce and, of course, the other members of the high command and the Armed Forces officers in general. It is not often said, but I want to take this opportunity to say it and give credit to those who deserve it.

I also want to comment on something that has been greatly publicized: the alleged pressure. When we speak of pressure there is often talk about the attitude of countries that put conditions on aid to the country; that is, making aid conditional upon the implementation of something. As a matter of fact, for some weeks you have seen how members of the U.S. Congress have asked the administration to freeze military aid. This is not new. It started some weeks ago. In our opinion, setting conditions is each country's right to establish conditions on something they are going to give away. I do want to make it very clear that neither the Salvadoran Government nor I act under any pressure. The only pressure we accept is that exerted by the Salvadoran people for their benefit, not that exerted by people abroad.

In that sense I also want to comment that we have not been pressured by the four friendly countries. The four friendly countries have always maintained a frank and sincere dialogue with us and have always tried to help move our country's peace process forward. We have not been pressured by the presidents of the four friendly countries. It stands to reason that the United Nations, which has a verification role, will exert pressure so the agreements are fulfilled. That is natural. That is the role it has been assigned. However, I repeat: The government will act in this peace process as it deems advisable for the Salvadoran people and for our country in general.

I would like to state that despite all the criticism, it is the only peace process in the world that is working. It is working because we have known how to interpret it properly: as a dynamic political process that requires constant decisions to continue moving forward toward what all Salvadorans want: the achievement of peace. We have experienced great difficulties. Throughout this entire process you have come here to ask us if there is a crisis because such and such a thing has not been done. We have always told you that there has never been a crisis that cannot be resolved. That is why a crisis is not a problem. In that sense I think we have continued to make progress and will continue to do so in the peace process as best benefits the Salvadoran people, our country, and the peace we have obtained with so much sacrifice among the Salvadorans. Of course, we respect what the other countries state, but we are also going to demand due respect for our sovereignty. They will have to understand that we are going to act in accordance with what benefits the Salvadoran people. As a last point, I would like to comment on a topic that I believe is probably included in 69 of the 80 papers held by Meto [not further identified]. I want to refer to the famous report that will be made public on 15 March.

Wintry weather in the United States has delayed the UN schedule and prevented a timely presentation of the document. We have therefore not been able to study the

document as the UN Observers for El Salvador [Onusal] just faxed us a copy of it at 0300 on 15 March. I must be frank and tell you that we have not been able to study the report. It is very long and includes several volumes and annexes. I understand, however, that the report will be made public at the United Nations on 15 May because the weather in New York seems to have calmed a bit.

Regardless of the contents of the Truth Commission's report, I would like to state that the government's position is the one we expressed to Salvadorans on the night of 14 March. We presented our position prior to the report's presentation and will continue to hold that position on the Truth Commission's report. The report should prompt El Salvador to turn a sad page in its history and use all our energies to build a [5-second break in transmission] to advance and enjoy the development and well-being of all Salvadorans. In general, the government will maintain its stated position. Obviously we will thoroughly study the very long document and report any new government decision.

I ask those who have questions regarding the Truth Commission's report to acknowledge the stated events, which have kept us from having a clear view on the report and its recommendations.

[Moderator] (?Walter Gomez)

[Gomez] Good morning, Mr. President. Since questions on the Truth Commission's report cannot be asked and based [words indistinct] request for an immediate and general amnesty, we want to know the government's arguments for such a request and if you will formally ask the Legislative Assembly to expedite the matter?

[Cristiani] We talked to the secretary generals of the political parties at the Legislative Assembly last week, and they know our position. They knew our position before we addressed the Salvadoran people on 14 March. Their reaction was totally positive. I believe an amnesty should come from all Salvadorans. Forgiveness should be general. We cannot continue to accuse, confront, denigrate, and recriminate each other. We have to turn that page and go on to the future. Two ladies who are widows of mayors murdered by the guerrillas stated their position on this issue on the morning of 15 March. Their position should be an example for everyone. All Salvadorans should follow those ladies' example because they are two people directly affected by the conflict.

[Moderator] (Ghandi Montoya)

[Montoya] Good morning, Mr. President. Although the government can still not comment on the Truth Commission report, international dispatches have already revealed names. They report, for example, that most of the top officials in the Armed Forces were involved in the murder of the Jesuit priests and that Joaquin Villalobos was involved in the murder of union leader Herbert Anaya Sanabria.

Joaquin Villalobos has already accepted his responsibility and has accepted the commission's recommendations that he not run for a public position in the next two years. We would like to know the government's opinion about this and if it, too, is willing to fully comply with the commission's recommendations?

[Cristiani] I believe these are personal reactions. We, as the government, will analyze the report in general terms. That does not preclude personal positions such as the one you say has been presented by Joaquin Villalobos from being expressed. Each one of the people mentioned in the report will have full freedom to react as they see fit. I repeat once again: Our position is that the country has to totally forgive and forget, and that also refers to the Truth Commission's recommendations.

[Moderator] (Javier Navarro).

[Navarro] Mr. President, my question is about the recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Commission. The ambassador...[pauses] the U.S. charge d'affaires [Peter Romero] said a deadline of approximately one week to 15 days had been set for full compliance with the recommendations. You said at the beginning of this news conference that you had already informed the secretary general of the established deadline. Is it the same deadline mentioned by the ambassador?

[Cristiani] I do not know where Romero obtained the information on a calendar. We have not given the secretary general any specific timetable. We have only informed him that in the next few days the presidency will send a special envoy to deliver that timetable. We have been working on this and discussing the subject with Gen. Ponce and the rest of the High Command members to complete the timetable. As we said from the beginning, we have not forgotten about this, but we believe there should be an orderly transition. That is our position, and we maintain it. In that sense, I do not know where he got the information about a 15-day deadline.

[Moderator] Angel Iraheta.

[Iraheta] Good morning, Mr. President. I am Angel Iraheta of Radio America. My question is: Following your statement on a 14 March radio and television network, some people affected by violence over the past decade have said it is difficult for them to pardon the responsible parties. Monsignor Tovar Astorga even said that the Truth Commission's report is unjust. Do you believe there could be recalcitrant groups in our society that could unleash a wave of violence after the Truth Commission's report is known?

[Cristiani] I think there is a little of everything in all the world's societies. As the saying goes: We all have a bit of good, bad, and ugly, and I do not think that Salvadorans are an exception. Obviously it is only a minority, but I do not think the possibility can be ruled out. We have been trying to prevent such actions, and if they occur we will act with all the necessary force.

[Moderator] [Name indistinct]

[Reporter] Good morning. I have a doubt. Have you accepted General Ponce's resignation? Independent of whether you accept it or not, have you decided who will replace him, and could it be a civilian?

[Cristiani] No decision has been made yet. As I said, we are discussing the matter with Gen. Ponce. I believe there should be an orderly transition. As we have said from the beginning regarding the Ad Hoc Commission's conclusions, transitions of this nature should be orderly, not forceful, and that is how it will be. No decision has been made about any particular sector.

[Reporter] Will you appoint a civilian, Mr. President?

[Cristiani] There has been no decision about that.

[Moderator] Ruth Castillo.

[Castillo] Good morning, Mr. President [words indistinct]. Regarding Navarro's question, Peter Romero practically said on 13 March in Chalatenango that the United States has given a deadline of one week to comply with the removal of the other 15 military officers and that the $11 million reduction in aid to El Salvador is part of the U.S. pressure. It has also been said that the aid will be reduced even more unless the 15 officers are removed. We can clearly see U.S. pressure here. Will you remove those 15 military officers to prevent a reduction in aid?

[Cristiani] We do not decide whether to comply with the Ad Hoc Commission's report based on pressure exerted by anyone. We had a commitment to comply with the peace agreements, and we never said we had made any exceptions. We simply delayed the decision regarding some members of the Armed Forces. We are not going to subject ourselves to anyone's predetermined time period. We must seek what is most advisable first for the country in general and then specifically for the military institution.

The entire peace process must be done in an orderly fashion that will allow continuity and stability. Many things have often been criticized here. Nevertheless, if you make a objective summary of what has been achieved, you will observe that just two or three years ago no one even dreamed about doing this in our country. We have been advancing within a framework of stability, and that is El Salvador's main concern. It is not the $11 million, because peace in El Salvador has no price.

[Moderator] Norma Jimenez.

[Jimenez] Good morning, Mr. President. Following the announcement of the Truth Commission's report, people are talking about the possibility of a coup d'etat. Even the U.S. Embassy on 14 March talked about a coup....

[Cristiani, interrupting] That report is entirely false.

[Jimenez] Do you think there is any possibility of a coup d'etat?

[Cristiani] No, there is none.

[Jimenez] I have another question. The Truth Commission involves Major Roberto D'Aubuisson as being responsible for Msgr. Romero's murder. How do you think this will affect the Nationalist Republican Alliance's image in the elections?

[Cristiani] I think the party will obviously have to react. As the government, we cannot comment on anyone who is mentioned in the Truth Commission report.

[Moderator] Wilfredo Cordoba.

[Cordoba] Mr. President, if a coup d'etat has been ruled out, could there perhaps be violent actions after the Truth Commission's report is revealed?

[Cristiani] Well, it is possible. I had been insisting that it was one of the risks involved if we do not adopt a very mature attitude, a very understanding attitude, and, of course, a conciliatory attitude. That is more important now than ever before. I even referred to the exemplary attitude displayed by the two widows of the mayors who were murdered during the conflict.

[Moderator] Irene Romero.

[Romero] Mr. President, in the event that an amnesty is approved for those mentioned in the Truth Commission's report, what will be the specific treatment of those leaders who have some sort of presidential aspirations in the 1994 elections?

[Cristiani] Well, [words indistinct] who will run for president of the Republic. It is not for the government to determine if someone wants or does not want to (?vote) for someone. Someone here was referring to a statement by Joaquin Villalobos. That is an entirely personal attitude.

Truth Commission Releases Report, Makes Recommendations

PA1603052093 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] The Truth Commission report was officially released on 15 March. It contains, in more than 200 pages, details of the most deplorable incidents that took place during 12 years of madness, in an effort to open a path of hope, which is its stated purpose. The report highlights the need for the parties involved—the government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN]—to pledge to comply with each and each one of its recommendations.

The Truth Commission report was drafted on the basis of 2,000 depositions relating to 7,000 victims, as well as information from secondary sources concerning over 18,000 affected persons. Among the most prominent

cases mentioned in the report are the assassination of the Jesuit priests, 11 mayors, Monsignor Romero, and the El Mozote massacre.

Regarding the Jesuit case, the report states that Generals Rene Emilio Ponce, Orlando Zepeda, Gilberto Rubio, and Juan Rafael Bustillo, and Colonels Inocente Orlando Montano, Oscar Alberto Leon Linares, Franciso Elena Fuentes, and Guillermo Benavides are involved to some degree.

In reference to the assassination of the 11 mayors, the document places blame on former FMLN Commanders Joaquin Villalobos, Mercedes del Carmen Letona, Ana Guadalupe Martinez, Marisol Galindo, and Jorge Melendez. In our 15 March newscast, we involuntarily confused Melendez with Facundo Guardado of the Farabundo Marti Peoples Liberation Forces, whose name does not appear in the report.

It is noteworthy that these five belong to the top leadership of the Peoples Liberation Army [ERP], and that no member of the four other FMLN organizations is mentioned.

Regarding the monumental crime against Msgr. Oscar Arnulfo Romero, the Truth Commission report says the order was given by Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, founder of the Nationalist Republican Alliance and creator of the death squads. The document also refers to Col. Domingo Monterrosa Barrios as the commander in charge of the El Mozote massacre, as well as then Major Natividad de Jesus Caceres.

The report contains a number of recommendations, including implementation of constitutional reforms and the establishment of true separation of powers by the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches in order to depoliticize the Supreme Court of Justice.

The commission also acknowledges that the current legal system is not capable of objective judgment, therefore, it does not recommend that judicial procedures be brought against the people involved until legal reforms have been implemented.

The commission calls for a specific investigation of the death squads to identify and eradicate them.

The commission expressed the belief that justice also requires that the victims of human rights violations by both parties be publicly acknowledged and materially compensated. In this regard, it calls for the establishment of a special fund, made up of 1 percent of all aid the government receives from the international community and urges friendly countries to cooperate with that effort.

In addition these recommendations, the Truth Commission report proposes the dismissal of human rights violators from public posts, reform of the administration of justice and of the Armed Forces, and a ban on allowing FMLN leaders to carry out public functions.

Based on its investigations, the commission makes a public call for 40 military personnel, including the military officers implicated in the Jesuit case, to be dismissed from the Armed Forces and from any other public post.

The commission also requests that several FMLN members be barred from public posts for 10 years. These include Joaquin Villalobos and Ana Guadalupe Martinez, both members of the ERP.

In the section devoted to the Armed Forces, the report proposes the creation of a new regulation that will allow military personnel to refuse to carry out an order that might result in a crime or a human rights violation.

The report also expresses concern over the links found between the military and wealthy families that helped to maintain the activities of the death squads between 1980 and 1983 from Miami in the United States. The commission calls for an investigation of the use of U.S. territory to carry out acts of terrorism and the apparent disinterest of the U.S. Government to such activities.

Salvador Truth Commission Head on Human Rights Violations

LD1503165793 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Report on statements to Madrid Radio, RNE, by former Colombian President Belisario Betancur, head of the El Salvador Truth Commission; portions enclosed with quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Former President of Colombia Belisario Betancur is the head of the Truth Commission, of which a U.S. jurist and a former Venezuelan foreign minister are also members. In exclusive statements to RNE Betancur explained the difficulties of the investigation and the particular aggressiveness of the Salvadoran regime toward the church. Betancur also suggests that U.S. officials knew the whole truth. Martin Meden reports:

[Meden] According to Belisario Betancur the commission headed by him had to overcome threats in order to seek the truth:

[Betancur] "It was difficult to get to the bottom of the situation. So many years had already gone by, and so many silences, so many compromises, so many intimidations, that life almost adopted forgetfulness as a kind of norm of conduct."

The investigations show the government's hounding of priests who defended human rights, always threatened by the military.

[Betancur] "The church became the focus of the rage of those strata or bodies or economic, political, and social groups with which the church itself disagreed."

Former President of Colombia Belisario Betancur told RNE that the Truth Commission, whose work he

directed, has so far unknown evidence to prove its charges against the military.

[Betancur] "We received evidence, which had not been put forward. Initially through clues we made approaches to some of these testimonies and with persistent patience we obtained true statements. We did not resign ourselves to a single testimony, but rather we only began to think about setting down conclusions when there was agreement in several testimonies."

According to Betancur, U.S. officials or advisers knew that the massacre of the Jesuits in El Salvador was being prepared.

[Betancur] "I imagine that it went unnoticed. It could have been known, but by individuals, not institutionally."

FMLN Communique on Truth Commission Report

PA1503194693 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Report by Armando Salazar]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen we are about to present some statements made by the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] Political Commission during a news conference that took place this morning. The news conference was headed by former Commanders Joaquin Villalobos, Leonel Gonzalez, German Cienfuegos, Francisco Jovel, and FMLN Deputy Coordinator Eugenio Chicas. In addition, there were some other high-ranking leaders present during the news conference. The objective of the news conference was to present the party's official position with respect to the Truth Commission report. We would like to present the statements made by the FMLN leaders.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] Fellow reporters, we are about to present the FMLN's official position with respect to the Truth Commission report. Our official communique is as follows:

The FMLN considers the Truth Commission report to be significant to the country's democratic future. Major Roberto D'Abuisson's clear involvement is evidence that the ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] party is deeply connected to the death squads, and that it perpetrated serious crimes.

The Armed Forces and security bodies' responsibility in most of the violations and the very nature of these violations, establishes the judicial system's inability as well as the complicity, and clearly shows that the state was responsible for the violence.

The [FMLN political] commission acknowledges the failure of the report on issues related to the further investigation of the death squads, most of all in aspects related to the involvement of political and business sectors, as well as influential families.

With respect to the recommendations:

1. The FMLN accepts its share of the recommendations made by the commission.
2. There is urgent need to proceed with the resignation of the entire Supreme Court of Justice as a starting point to accomplishing an effective transformation of the judicial system.
3. Likewise, there must be a follow up of the recommendations related to the establishment of agencies, stemming from the Truth Commission in order to investigate the death squads, and the involvement of the aforementioned business and political sectors as well as influential families.
4. The creation of a material compensation fund aimed at compensating the victims must be executed by earmarking 1 percent of all foreign aid as recommended by the commission.
5. To reject the proposal of an immediate amnesty until the results of the death squads investigations, and all the recommendations by the Truth Commission have been carried out.

[Signed] FMLN Political Commission.

Correction to Truth Commission Identifies Human Rights Violators

PA1503054093

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Truth Commission Identifies Human Rights Violators," published in the 15 March Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 15: Paragraph three, only sentence make read: ...1980 and July 1992. (correcting the year).

Political Parties React to Possible Amnesty

PA1603041693 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Passages within quotations are recorded]

[Text] Political parties represented at the Legislative Assembly are studying the possibility of issuing a general amnesty for all those mentioned in the Truth Commission report made public on 15 March. According to political leaders, the goal of the amnesty is to attain national reconciliation. Jorge Arriaza from the Christian Democratic Party said amnesty is the most feasible alternative to allow Salvadoran society to continue with the [word indistinct] development without turning back to old rancors. Here is what Arriaza said:

[Arriaza] "Amnesty should be across the board because one case or another cannot be excluded. On what basis can the Legislative Assembly, or a deputy, judge if one crime was worst than another, or if one action was more painful for one family than for another? This is a moral judgment that is difficult to make. Therefore, we have been talking over these past days about a pardon; that is, a complete and total pardon."

For Mario Aguilera Carranza—from the National Democratic Union, grouped with Democratic Convergence—amnesty is feasible. Nevertheless, for the time being total compliance with the recommendations made by the Truth Commission is important, otherwise no progress will be made in any field.

[Aguilera] "Amnesty alone is not possible. For amnesty to contribute to reconciliation, it must be unanimous. That is, all the political parties must agree. I say this because in a moment of rage or who knows what, the ruling party, with the votes of the National Conciliation Party, could approve the amnesty with a majority of 43 votes. Nevertheless, this would be a Pyrrhic victory. The recommendations must be applied. One cannot write blank checks or have faith in goodwill or impossible offers."

Guillermo Guevara Lacayo, from the Authentic Christian Democratic Movement, said this is the time for the nation's political forces to act with goodwill, without demagogy, to foster true reconciliation among Salvadorans.

[Guevara] "For starters, we granted a general amnesty to the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front to allow them to participate in politics. Therefore, I believe a general amnesty is called for, without looking for trouble. We must see if we Salvadorans are capable of pardoning each other. Nevertheless, this should be done as soon as possible to attain our nation's reconciliation."

Meanwhile, Armando Calderon Sol, president of the ruling party Nationalist Republican Alliance, spoke out in favor of an absolute amnesty, which would help heal old wounds among Salvadorans. He said it was time to start anew in El Salvador.

[Calderon Sol] "We have said before that an amnesty is necessary to end the Salvadoran problem. We believe this is not the time to reopen old wounds and to recall the past. This is not the time to look at the past, we must look toward the future, we must look toward a tomorrow. We must end the Salvadoran people's tragedy, we must be generous in spirit and pardon. We must look toward tomorrow, and construct a new El Salvador. I do not believe that by looking to the past, opening wounds, and reopening old wounds we will construct the El Salvador of the future. It is through pardon, it is through that Christian message of pardon, love, and charity, and solidarity that we are going to construct that new El Salvador. I am in favor of an amnesty as the final page of an era so that our country can look to the future and can consolidate its democracy and consolidate the economic recovery that we so badly need."

The possibility of a general amnesty for all those who are mentioned in the Truth Commission report has broad acceptance among the political forces because there is enough willingness to approve this amnesty. This could even take place, at the latest, on 18 March during the Legislative Assembly's weekly session. Nevertheless, in this context it has been set out that the report's most important objective is not only to learn the complete truth, but to apply effectively the recommendations so that at the Legislative Assembly the amnesty can be unanimously approved. For the nation's right and left political sectors, the Trust Commission report will clarify the facts and represents the end of many pages of Salvadoran history and the turning over of a new leaf.

Authorities Find Arsenal at Former Rebel Leader's Home

PA1603041793 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 13 Mar 93 p 49

[Text] Items such as 81-mm mortar rounds, AK-47 rifle ammunition, and a grenade launcher were part of the arsenal authorities found at an apartment belonging to Fidel Recinos, a former Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front "commander" known as "Raul Hercules."

The weapons were in an apartment at Villas de San Francisco, 200 meters from the South Highway, near the Cuscatlan Stadium.

The authorities did not disclose what led to the discovery of the powerful weaponry. The cache was found in the second to last apartment of the 10 apartments in the building, which has a security door. The weapons were in one apartment and Recinos was in another, where he lives with his family and bodyguards.

Hours before the search warrant arrived, the former "commander" appeared in the hallway with several Onusal [UN Observers for El Salvador] members and informed those present that the mortar rounds were part of the weapons he is collecting to set up a museum, with several helicopter parts he said were also in the apartment.

He said that the more than 100 AK-47 bullets were part of his security equipment, as he carries one of the Russian-built rifles in his vehicle, in addition to those carried by his bodyguards.

The reporters asked Recinos to allow them to photograph the weapons and other items for his private museum, but Recinos flatly denied the request, despite the reporters' insistence.

Several Onusal members and a U.S. Embassy official, who were apparently there to protect him, were at Hercules' apartment.

Argentina

CNEA Head on Criticism of Heavy Water Plant, Cost

PY1503185993 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] The president of the National Commission for Atomic Energy (CNEA) has downplayed criticism of the useful life of the Arroyito heavy water plant and its cost, which surpassed by 700 million pesos the original estimate.

CNEA President Manuel Mondino said that Argentine components have a useful life of 10 years and stressed the possibility that arose during the last few days for exporting heavy water to Romania and the ROK.

Court Favors Extradition of Drug Trafficker to Italy

PY1503201293 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1236 GMT 11 Mar 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 March (NA)—The Foreign Ministry has announced that a federal court has ruled in favor of the request by the Italian Government for the extradition of Michele di Donato, an international drug trafficker.

Federal Judge Martin Irurzun sent a note to the court in Bari, Italy, that had requested di Donato's arrest on international drug trafficking, homicide, and terrorism charges.

Di Donato, who was taken into custody on 8 November 1991 at a tearoom located on the corner of Marcelo Torcuato de Alvear and Libertad Streets in downtown Buenos Aires, is considered one of the leaders of the Sicilian Mafia.

The arrest of Di donato was made by personnel from Interpol and from the Intelligence Narcotics Division of Argentina's Federal Police.

Di Donato, 43, is ranked third on the list of people wanted by the police worldwide for international peddling of narcotics and for being the third most important member of the Sicilian Mafia.

The Italian Government had requested di Donato's arrest after he was found guilty on the following counts: drug trafficking, terrorist attacks, kidnapping, and homicides.

According to Interpol reports, di Donato entered Argentina in October 1991 using his own passport, establishing himself at General Mosconi [word indistinct], apartment No. 2, Lomas del Mirador, in the western section of Greater Buenos Aires.

Di Donato is being held in custody at Villa Devoto penitentiary.

Chile

Air Transportation Cooperation Agreement Signed

PY1503213493 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Bolivian Consul General Alberto Zelada and Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma have signed an air transportation cooperation agreement between the two countries.

Zelada stated that the agreement is the result of efforts by the two countries to tighten their economic relations. He added that the creation of a political and legal framework prior to the signing of the agreement is proof of the reciprocal confidence the governments and political agents of the two countries enjoy.

Regarding the signing of a free trade agreement, Zelada said that his government wants to pursue talks with Chile and reach agreement if possible within this month.

[Begin Zelada recording] We want to complete our negotiations over this agreement during this month. We have still not set a new date for our next meeting, which I hope will be the last prior to signing the agreement. We will probably set the date within a few days. We are talking with the Chilean Government about this date for this meeting that will be held in Bolivia. As normal, this meeting will be held in Bolivia. [end recording]

The agreement signed with Bolivia regulates air traffic between the two countries which is necessary due to the current flow of passengers.

The first phase of the agreement benefits LAN-Chile [Chilean National Airlines] and Lloyd Bolivian Airlines.

Colombia

Gaviria Condemns U.S., EC 'Protectionist Attitudes'

PA1603043493 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 10 Mar 93 pp 1, 12A

[Excerpts] President Cesar Gaviria has strongly condemned the protectionist attitudes adopted by the United States and EC on issues such as coffee and bananas.

In an improvised speech, the president questioned the U.S. Government's "reticent attitude" in negotiations to establish an international coffee pact with economic clauses. He also expressed concern over the EC's decision to impose a quota of 2 million tons on Latin American banana imports as of 1 July.

At the installation of a forum of the Group of Three, Gaviria underscored the efforts made by the Latin American countries to achieve structural reforms and he called for reciprocity on the part of the developed nations.

"We cannot expect concessions from the international community or preferential treatment from the United States or the EC. What we can expect from the world is more trade and more commercial relations," he asserted.

Carlos Arturo Angel, president of the National Association of Industrialists (ANDI), warned that the country is not prepared to deal with an accelerated liberation of trade with Mexico.

A study conducted by ANDI shows that beginning in 1994, 22 percent of the main raw materials imported by Colombia will be able to enter Mexico at a tariff rate of zero due to the Free Trade Agreement.

Angel also warned of the possibility that the foreign tariffs agreed upon within the Andean Group will become a disadvantage in the negotiations with Mexico. Foreign Trade Minister [Juan Manuel Santos] said that Colombia can "pierce" that tariff. [passage omitted]

President Gaviria also expressed concern over the U.S. request for consultations with Colombia regarding certain products.

Regarding the EC, Gaviria criticized the decision adopted by the European agriculture ministers, whereby restrictions will be imposed on Latin American banana imports and he justified the belligerence with which the banana-producing countries have undertaken the defense of their rights.

The EC agreed to impose a quota of 2 million tons on Latin American bananas entering the EC as of 1 July and a 20 percent tariff on fruits, 170 percent if the established volume is exceeded.

The banana-producing countries have made a strong effort to modify the EC measures at diplomatic and legal levels by approaching the GATT. [passage omitted]

Government To Modernize Airport Facilities, Equipment

PA1603050393 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0130 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] One of the government's goals is to modernize all Colombian airports over the next three years. The government plans to spend 56 billion pesos on radars, communications equipment, and on constructing new runways. The following report will show the priority given by the government and Congress to air security.

The deterioration and obsoleteness of the national aeronautics infrastructure has forced the government to design a plan to modernize communications equipment at all airports and to repair runways at almost all air terminals. The government has invested 28 billion pesos to purchase nine radars, three of which are already functioning. The remaining six will be installed within 15 months.

[Begin Civil Aeronautics Director Jose Palacios recording] Various investments have been made. On 13 March, contracts were signed to purchase additional radar systems. We will also acquire radio equipment. [end recording]

New runways will be constructed at several airport terminals, including the Santa Fe de Bogota Airport. Next month, bidding will take place for the construction of a parallel runway and of two smaller landing strips for small aircraft, which is causing congestions at El Dorado's main runway.

[Begin Palacios recording] We plan to construct a runway approximately 1,000 meters long to handle a large volume of flights, particularly small aircraft. [end recording]

Plans to reinforce air security do not end there. Congress will resume debates on the subject at the end of March. Congress will hear recommendations from various sectors linked to air navigation in Colombia to design a plan to put the country at a competitive level and in a better position to face the process of economic liberalization.

[Begin Democratic New Force Senator Eduardo Pizano recording] The government seems to have forgotten the need to tighten its belt and provide the country with the necessary roads, ports, airports, and railroads. It appears that absolutely nothing has been done in those areas. I believe the government has finally realized it must guarantee those services for all Colombians. [end recording]

According to experts, the only doubt about this ambitious government plan is whether the country can wait one or more years for the government-acquired equipment to be installed. The improvements are necessary, not only because air traffic controllers' pointed this out during the past week but to keep up with the economic liberalization process.

Guerrillas, Government Accused of Human Rights Violations

PA1603035893 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] A private organization presented to the OAS a serious report on human rights violations by the guerrillas. In the report the government is accused of complicity due to its absence in the war zones.

A nonprofit private organization took the initiative for the first time in the country to present charges before an international organization against the guerrillas for human rights violations. It also condemned the state as an accomplice of that violence. The Committee of Guerrillas Victims reported to OAS headquarters in Washington that over 3,500 kidnapping and missing persons cases in 1992 were due to the guerrillas' indiscriminate violent actions. The committee claims three out of every five murders in Colombia are against peasants and that

seven out of every 10 terrorist attacks are staged in the countryside. In addition, the report accuses the state of violating international humanitarian aid by not giving any kind of aid to the victims, while it fosters impunity. In addition, the committee claims the state is guilty because it does not make its presence felt in regions where authorities are subjected to guerrillas' actions. The committee reports Colombia is a nation terrorized by guerrillas.

Security Agency Intercepts Caraballo Conversation

PA1503233693 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 12 Mar 93 p 12a

[Report by Miller Rubio]

[Text] Guerrilla criminal Francisco Caraballo, leader of a dissident faction of the former Popular Liberation Army, has admitted the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board cannot "defeat the enemy forces."

He added, however, the guerrillas are not paralyzed and will not suspend actions against military and economic targets.

Caraballo's comments are part of a radiotelephone conversation with other members of his organization that was intercepted by a state security agency.

During the conversation the criminals voiced disagreement with a popular consultation on the peace talks because it is inconsistent with their goal of destabilizing the country.

The two men agreed on the need to apply pressure for the creation of a special committee to manipulate a new rapprochement with the government.

In this regard they also agreed a UN delegation should be part of this group. "We do not oppose an international mediation, for example, of the United Nations, but would have to consider the conditions of this mediation," they added.

According to the criminals, human rights groups, state organizations, labor groups, and municipal leaders from all over the country could also make up this committee.

In view of the possibility of establishing a dialogue with the government, the Caraballo group plans to consolidate its old strategy of intensifying a struggle of classes in the country.

According to the conversation, Caraballo and his men plan to manipulate the population to ensure they turn their backs on the state in areas where their fronts operate.

Caraballo said "peace will again be permeated by a confrontation among classes. Our peace slogans will aim to remove obstacles preventing a broad confrontation of classes in the political arena."

As for the media that have harshly questioned the group's operations, Caraballo and his interlocutor said "we face an absolute disadvantage in a political confrontation."

The dialogue between the two criminals was monitored in Uraba days before a human rights forum held at the Santa Fe de Bogota Convention Center.

State security agencies analyzed the conversation and concluded the Caraballo group is made up of 13 fronts and about 1,500 men.

Intelligence organizations know Caraballo is in a jungle area between Cordoba and Antioquia Departments.

The national government is offering a 500-million peso reward for information leading to the capture of the subversive leader.

Police Confiscate Escobar Associate's Vehicles, Radios

PA1503151693 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 12 Mar 93 p 12a

[Text] Medellin—Search Block [Bloque de Busqueda] patrols confiscated four vehicles and 16 communication radios on 11 March during numerous raids of properties that belonged to the late Dario Henao Quintero, alias HH, killed one week ago in Medellin.

Special Armed Corps (CEA) [Cuerpo Especial Armado] of the Police Elite Force that were in charge of the raids said the operations were carried out in a dozen metropolitan parking lots and in houses near the cycling track close to Medellin's Atanasio Girardot Stadium.

The Elite Force confiscated a Chevrolet Model 300 truck with license plates LMB-511 and a Dodge container truck with license plates MC-4099.

A Nissan Patrol jeep with license plates LYJ-292 and a Toyota jeep with license plates LYT-439 were also confiscated.

According to police spokesmen, the vehicles were outfitted with special compartments in which it is presumed that weapons, dynamite, and drugs were transported.

The raid also netted 16 communication radios with accessories plus 1,700 special batteries.

HH, who was a cousin of Maria Victoria Henao, alias La Tata, Pablo Escobar Gaviria's wife, is believed to have been one of Escobar's security chiefs. HH died on 2 March during a Search Block special operation at a house in western Medellin.

The government received a telephone call disclosing Henao's location after a 100 million-peso reward for information on his whereabouts had been offered.

HH was one of the individuals closest to Escobar and controlled his finances, movements, and security.

Ecuador

Government Accelerates Search for Oil

PA1603035693 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] The government says that at current crude oil extraction rates, there will only be sufficient oil for 17 years of production. This is insufficient, therefore, the search will be accelerated to increase reserves. Francisco Acosta, under secretary of hydrocarbons, stated that proven reserves amounting to 2.2 billion barrels of crude will last somewhat more than three lustrums at current exploitation levels.

Paraguay

Colorado Party Proclaims Wasmosy-Seifart Candidacy

PY1603031093 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] In a special session held this afternoon by the Executive Board of the Colorado Party, Juan Carlos Wasmosy and Angel Roberto Seifart were officially proclaimed the Colorado presidential and vice presidential candidates for the 9 May general election.

Blas N. Riquelme unexpectedly resigned as chairman of the National Republican Association [ANR], Colorado Party, during the session.

An unexpected, surprising turn occurred during the special session of the ANR executive board which was convened to proclaim the Wasmosy-Seifart ticket.

[Begin Riquelme recording] We are here today with the Colorado candidates proclaimed by the Colorado Electoral Board. I, for the time being, cannot offer any other alternative in this endeavor and cannot do anything but proclaim this ticket, and move on. [end recording]

Everything was going according to plan when an unidentified person, who was speaking from outside the session room, demanded that Riquelme resign.

[Begin recording] [Riquelme] Since you are asking for it, you may have my resignation as of now.

[Unmonitorable unidentified voices, shouts]

[Riquelme] What do you mean, for the time being? This is the party's ticket and... [drowned out by shouts, applause] [end recording]

After Riquelme left the session room, Eugenio Sanabria Cantero took the chair in his capacity as vice president of the party. The Executive Board finally proclaimed the Wasmosy-Seifart ticket as the winner.

Later, Seifart minimized the situation and made it clear that the whole thing is a misunderstanding. He then asked that the party support the ticket in the campaign that officially begins today.

[Begin Seifart recording] The time has come to put hesitation and doubts aside because we are beginning to cause irreparable damage to our party. [end recording]

In his speech, Wasmosy said he did not have much support from his party members during the campaign.

[Begin Wasmosy recording] Gentlemen, let us work united from now on. We are facing a major challenge. I like challenges. We are going to win because ours is a powerful, glorious, century-old party that has done a lot for the country. Thank you. [end recording]

[Asuncion RPC Television in Spanish at 0000 GMT on 16 March adds during its regular newscast: "Riquelme concluded his speech by stating in Guarani that even though the candidate is bad it would be worse not to have one. This remark provoked the angry reaction of a Wasmosy supporter, who considered it offensive. Someone from the crowd asked Riquelme to resign. Riquelme reacted immediately: He stood up and said that if they wanted him to resign, he was resigning right then. He said, however, that the ticket has been proclaimed. Riquelme then left the session, visibly annoyed."]

Argana-Ybanez Movement Splits 13 Mar

PY1503160993 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 14 Mar 93 p 2

[Excerpt] The Argana-Ybanez movement was split yesterday with the withdrawal of Diogenes Martinez, legal representative of the movement, from an event sponsored by the CCC [Colorado Peasant Coordinating Board]. Presidential candidate Luis Maria Argana, who had not authorized Martinez to make a speech, called him on this occasion a "traitor" while Martinez, in turn, described Argana as a "dictator." The rally was held to reaffirm the CCC's support for the movement, which finally split into two groups: those supporting the Argana-Ybanez movement and those who support Martinez, who had made an impromptu speech from the back of a pickup truck.

Disagreement over the Colorado Party crisis prompted the expected split between Argana and Martinez during the CCC rally. Argana had stated that the true party would win within six months, and Martinez said that his only sin was having tried to avoid the defeat of the ANR [National Revolutionary Alliance—Colorado Party] in the general elections.

Argana again defended the victory of his movement and reaffirmed that he will not support or negotiate with the Wasmosy-Seifart ticket, which he described as "the winner of a scandalous and fraudulent election."

He condemned "the traitors seeking to negotiate behind the people's back, behind closed doors." This was interpreted as a clear allusion to Martinez, who was attending the meeting.

Argana said that "those who are supporting the Wasmosy-Seifart ticket are desperate, because they will not win the elections without the Colorado Party followers," who in his opinion "are backing the Argana-Ybanez ticket." In this regard, he said that the Wasmosy-Seifart ticket had gone to his house to seek the unity of the party. He said it would fail to meet this objective as long as the victory of his movement in the 27 December elections was not recognized.

Ybanez, in turn, said that the official ticket had offered him a high-level post but that he had not accepted it because he feared the people would turn their backs on him and because he did not wish to be a traitor.

Ybanez added that the victory of the Wasmosy-Seifart ticket was an offense to democracy and that he would therefore remain with Argana, because "the true Colorado Party followers" advocate the Argana-Ybanez ticket. [passage omitted]

'Serious Irregularities' Found at Immigration Department

PY1503192893 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 11 Mar 93 p 40

[Text] Judge Angel Barchini on 10 March searched the Interior Ministry Immigration Department and found serious irregularities in the handling of residence papers for foreigners, especially Chinese and Korean citizens.

Barchini seized a large quantity of compromising documents from the office of Immigration Department Director Raul Battilana Nigra, who is in Brazil.

Those affected by alleged fraudulent maneuvers of Immigration Department employees reported the illegal furnishing of temporary and permanent residence to the Congressional Investigating Committee on Illegal Activities.

Congressmen Francisco de Vargas and Carlos Romero and Judge Barchini seized documents that prove the granting of residence papers to Chinese, Korean, German, Bulgarian, Palestinian, and Arab citizens.

The preliminary data gathered by Barchini may help to uncover a "business" that began under former Interior Minister Sabino A. Montanaro's administration, which later involved other Immigration Department employees.

People paid between $800 and $2000 for residence papers that were granted in a few days, in clear violations of local laws.

De Vargas said: Police Inspector Guillen was one of the main residence papers traffickers. "They were paid in dollars and obtained nearly $4 million in about two months."

Interior Ministry Secretary General Enrique Riera Escudero also participated in the search. After exchanging ideas with the judge and de Vargas, he opened the Immigration Department. Riera said: "We are ready to cooperate with the court so that everything can be clarified. Those responsible for these actions must be punished and those innocent must be acquitted." Riera was accompanied by Interior Ministry legal adviser Cesar Diesel.

Barchini checked employees' bank accounts and discovered that Battilana deposited over $16,000 at the Exterior Bank. He conducted other business at the Guarani and Solar exchange houses and at other banks. Legal action will be taken on 11 March to clarify the situation in the Immigration Department.

Peru

Attorney General's Office Personnel Dismissed

PY1603021693 Lima EL PERUANO in Spanish 24 Feb 93 p B1

[All figures as published]

[Excerpt] A total of 234 attorneys and 244 administrative officials were removed from the Attorney General's Office after an additional evaluation period of 30 working days, which was granted by the government and which expired on 10 February.

The number of dismissed attorneys is 260 if one includes the 26 resignations tendered during the evaluation process, however. In the case of administrative personnel, the total number of dismissals is 646 if one considers the 402 employees who resigned with incentives.

Considering that the total number of attorneys in Peru is 857, there are 665 confirmed [ratificados] attorneys, while 665 out of 1,511 administrative employees were confirmed.

It should be mentioned that dismissals during the initial period were based on ostensible irregularities, while a rigorous evaluation process was performed during the second period, in which each employee had to pass several tests to keep his job. [passage omitted]

Uruguay

Lacalle Conveys 'Optimistic' Message to Congress

PY1603032893 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2306 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Montevideo, 15 Mar (EFE)—Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle today conveyed to Congress an optimistic message on the situation in the country and asked for political support for introducing "deep changes."

In a speech to open the annual legislative period, Lacalle evaluated his three years in office, assuring that changes are necessary "to guarantee the achievements in a competitive, dynamic world."

"Republican institutions have worked not only in times of prosperity, when this is easy, but also in times when it was necessary to settle differences, confrontations, and disagreements," Lacalle said.

He indirectly criticized the leaders who began their political campaign two years before the elections by saying that his government "chose to govern" and to set aside "electoral activities."

The Lacalle government has just been left with a minority in Congress, because the two main factions of his party, the National (Blanco) Party, walked out of the cabinet last week.

The Lacalle administration was harshly criticized because of the neoliberal policy it adopted despite the opposition of its own legislators. The policy, however, has had good financial and economic results, based on strong fiscal austerity and strict public spending control.

Three years after assuming power, the president said that a "more prosperous society" has been created, because society's wealth has increased with the 7 percent growth in the Gross National Product [GNP] in 1992 and the 10 percent GNP growth over the past three years. He said there are symptoms of stability, because interest dropped from 110 percent in 1989 to the current rate of 38 percent.

After outlining several improvements in public security services and investment in education, which grew from 10 to 20 percent [no specific reference given] in 1992, Lacalle said that Uruguayan society enjoys "better sanitary standards."

"Uruguay is the only country in the region where cholera epidemics have not occurred," for which reason the investment in social programs that has been made for generations has been worthwhile, Lacalle said.

Concerning the foreign debt, Lacalle said it was reduced in 1992 and that net indebtedness dropped from $3.244 billion at the end of 1989 to $2.194 billion in 1993.

He added that tariffs have been reduced, that this has promoted freedom of commerce, and that the country is thus preparing for Mercosur (Common Market of the South, consisting of Uruguay, Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay).

Venezuela

Security Tightened Around Presidential Plane

PA1503193093 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1640 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Caracas, 15 Mar (EFE)—Local newspapers reported on 15 March that Venezuelan authorities have ordered tightened security around the plane used by President Carlos Andres Perez. The reports said that a confusing incident involving a shoot-out among soldiers on 13 March has added to the current climate of political instability.

According to EL NACIONAL, strict orders have been issued to all airports to adopt necessary security measures during takeoffs and landings of the presidential Boeing 737.

The local press published reports of an alleged shoot-out between the National Guard and soldiers on 13 March near the Maiquetia International Airport, some 30 km north of Caracas.

The government has remained silent regarding the incident, which some reports indicate was caused by the escape of some soldiers from the Marine Corps headquarters adjacent to the airport or by an attack staged by three deserters from that same force against a National Guard garrison in the nearby area of Catia Lamar.

According to another version published by the NOTIEX-PRESS bulletin, the National Guard clashed with unidentified individuals after the presidential motorcade passed the airport en route to the president's country home in the Macuto tourist resort.

Venezuelans are waiting for a Supreme Court decision on charges filed on 11 March against President Perez for misuse of funds and embezzlement by Attorney General Ramon Escovar Salom.

Perez has asked the court to make an urgent decision on the matter for the good of the country and announced that should the court rule in favor of his trial, he will leave his post.

According to reports, in the document supporting his charges, Escovar Salom contended that $17 million of an allotment of secret funds assigned to the Interior Ministry for security expenses were "diverted for the benefit of third parties" in 1989 with Perez' consent.

Perez said the charges filed by the attorney general are part of a campaign unleashed by his enemies to oust him from power.

Copei President Says Request for Investigation Valid

PA1603042093 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Social Christian Party [Copei] President Hilarion Cardozo said he believes the preliminary investigation requested by the attorney general is a measure that abides by the law. The Copei leader emphasized that the implementation of the law cannot be subject to any conditions.

The Copei president said the actions carried out by the Attorney General's Office are valid within the management of justice, adding it is legally wrong to divide the country by trying to enforce the law in two different ways.

[Begin Cardozo recording] Any citizen in Venezuela has the right to file charges against any official—regardless of whether it involves the president, comptroller, prosecutor, senator, deputy, governor, or mayor—if he believes there are sufficient grounds. There cannot be two laws in Venezuela. [end recording]